

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for storing and retrieving a number of PIN codes for protected access devices, comprising the following steps for storing the PIN codes:

entering and at least briefly storing an access code,
entering and storing at least one PIN code of a protected-access device,

automatically determining, entering, and storing at least one unique feature of at least one protected-access device,
producing a link between one of the stored PIN codes and the stored unique feature of that device with protected access through the relevant PIN code;

and the following steps for retrieving a specific stored PIN code:

entering the access code,
entering the unique feature of the protected-access device associated with the PIN code to be retrieved,

testing whether the access code is permissible,
testing whether the entered unique feature matches one of the stored unique features, and

if both tests turn out positive, outputting the stored PIN code linked with the unique feature.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including storing the stored access code permanently and testing

the permissibility of the entered access code with reference to a comparison with the permanently stored access code.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, including storing the access code and/or unique features and/or PIN codes in encoded form.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, including using the access code as a key for encoded storage.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, including storing the access code only briefly and deleting the access code after encoding has taken place.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, including effecting the linking between the unique feature of a protected-access device and the associated PIN code by encoding the PIN code, and wherein the unique feature forms the key.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the access code and/or unique features and/or PIN codes are stored in externally inaccessible memory areas.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particular serial number of the protected-access device is used as the unique feature.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a characteristic physical property of the protected-access device is used as the unique feature.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the output of the PIN code is made available only for a limited time period.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the protected-access devices comprise smart cards and/or magnetic stripe cards.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a wrong PIN code not stored is outputted if one of the two tests turns out negative.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for storing and retrieving a number of PIN codes for protected-access devices, comprising a keyboard for entering the PIN codes and an access code,

a first device for receiving unique features of the protected-access devices by automatically determining the unique features of the protected-access devices,

at least one memory for at least briefly storing the access code, storing the PIN codes and storing the unique features,

a second device for testing an entered access code as to its permissibility and comparing an entered unique feature with stored unique features, and

a display for indicating retrieved PIN codes.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the apparatus is a pocket card reader.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 14 including a device for encoding the PIN codes and/or unique features and/or access code.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, including externally inaccessible memory areas for storing the PIN codes and/or unique features and/or access code.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)